

A. Constitution

For a social Library mutually agreed upon
by us the Undersigned

Fully convinced that Public as well as private
happiness essentially depends on the General diffusion
of usefull Knowledge; and that the easiest and most
direct way to obtain that Knowledge, is, by the free use
of well chosen Books; we the Subscribers do, therefore
to purchase & keep for our use and benefit, a social circu-
lating Library, & do hereby Obligate ourselves to abide by
the following Articles as constitutional for this society.

1st That each member shall pay one dollar per year for
the space of four years successively, which sum of four
dollars shall entitle the Subscriber to a right in the
Library.

2^{dly} That after the expiration of four years, after ac-
quiring each right shall pay annually forever after
twenty five cents, at the annual Meeting, or be deprived
of the benefit of the Library till paid.

3^{dly} That each member may purchase as many rights as he pleases, at four dollars Bright & have as many Votes in all meetings as he has rights

4th That each member may take out as many Books at one time as he has rights and no more, carefully returning them, according to the Articles following

5th All Books shall be punctually returned once in three months, Viz. on the first Monday in March, June, September and December, by 3 O'clock P.M. on penalty of paying thirty three cents for each book detained beyond that hour - on refusing to pay that fine, to have the use of his right suspended till paid

6th Each Member shall have Liberty of taking out Books, on the first Monday of every month, if he pleases, returning one when he takes out another, & the Librarian shall attend for that purpose from the hours of one to nine O'clock P.M.

7th There shall be an annual meeting of the Proprietors on the first Monday of September at three O'clock P.M. to chuse a Librarian and five Directors at least, who shall manage the Prudential affairs of the Library, receive all monies, fines and forfeitures, and lay out the same for the use of the Library, & shall purchase and receive Books and other furniture, And the Librarian shall be accountable to the Proprietors for the whole Library, and shall keep an

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an account always open to the Inspection of the Proprietors of all Furniture, Books, Fines &c. received for the use of the Library, how and for what expended - & the Librarian shall be an Inhabitant of the town of East Sudbury, with ^{whom} the Library is to be Deposited — —

8th Each Proprietor shall have Liberty to turn such Books into the Library as he pleases to the amount of his right, or rights, the directors to appraise and receive them, in case they judge them valuable - if the directors refuse them, the major part of the Proprietors present at any meeting, shall determine whether they shall be received or not —

9th Any Proprietor shall have Liberty of selling his right or rights, when he pleases, but a single right shall not be subdivided; or a Proprietor who does not improve his right may lend or lease it, sending a written certificate of such loan or lease to the Librarian —

10th If any Book shall be damaged, the Proprietor in whose possession it was, shall make it good, at the direction of the directors; in case of refusal, the Benefit of his right shall be suspended until he does comply —

11th If any person who shall lend a book to a person who is not a Proprietor, he shall pay a fine equal to the value of the book, if he refuses the use of his right shall be suspended till he ~~does~~ complies —

12th Any two or more Proprietors wanting at one and the same time a particular book the Proprietor who shall outbid shall have it.

13th If the proprietors have books of the same kind to turn into the Library, he who will turn in his on the best terms shall have it accepted. —

14th And the Library shall remain to us & to our heirs & assigns forever, being subject to an annual revision of its articles & regulations, as the major part of the Proprietors present at the meeting shall judge necessary, and that after twenty persons have subscribed to this Constitution they may proceed to chuse their officers - at a meeting warned at least two Sundays previous by the committee chosen to draught this Constitution - by posting each Notification at the door of the meeting house - and that all officers shall be chosen by written votes. —

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|---|
| East Sudbury | Josiah Bridge | right | 1 |
| April 6 th 1796 | Nath ^l Reves | right | 1 |
| Daniel Griffin - 1 | Joseph Roby | | 1 |
| Elisha Cutting - 1 | Benj ^a Pool | | 1 |
| Asa S. Bridge - 1 | Robert Cutting | | 1 |
| Caleb Hayward - 1 | John Flagg | | 1 |
| Wen ^d Johnson - 1 | David Smith | | 1 |
| Simcon Pratt - 1 | Edmund Rice Jun ^r | | 1 |
| Thos ^d Heard - 1 | Robert Cutting Jun ^r | | 1 |
| Benj ^a Adams - 1 | David Heard | | 1 |
| E. H. Wolcott - 1 | John Titton | | 0 |
| Josiah Thomas - 1 | Jacob Reeves | | 1 |
| John Hayes Jun ^r - 1 | Joel Briant | | 1 |
| Thomas Rutter - 1 | | | |